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February 1, 1994

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BY FAX

Mr. Yuri Baturin
National Security Advisor
Russian Federation
Fax: 7095269483

Dear Mr. Baturin:

The New York Academy of Sciences has received notification that Dr. Vil Mirzayanov is in a maximum security prison, Matrosskaya Tishina, where he will remain until Thursday, February 3 when the case is scheduled to resume.

We appeal to the Russian government to drop the charges against Dr. Mirzayanov, because they are in clear violation of the Russian Constitution.

The freedom of scientists to call the attention of the world to possible transgressions by elements of their government is an elementary fact of scientific freedom. The abuse of that freedom also undermines the foundations of confidence in the trustworthiness of governments in their international relations.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg, Ph.D.
President
The New York Academy
of Sciences

JL:ejh

cc: Sergei Kovalev
Chairman, Human Rights Committee
of the Russian Supreme Soviet